

# Calendar No. 419

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2151

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2021

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. OSSOFF, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JUNE 14, 2022

Reported by Mr. DURBIN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

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# A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3   **SECTION 1. STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.**

4       Section 1701 of Omnibus Crime Control and Safe  
5   Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended—

6           (1) by redesignating subsection (m) as sub-  
7   section (n); and

8           (2) by inserting after subsection (1) the fol-  
9   lowing:

10      “(m) COPS STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.—

11      “(1) DEFINITIONS.—

12          “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eli-  
13   gible entity’ means—

14           “(i) an institution of higher education,  
15   as defined in section 101 of the Higher  
16   Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001),  
17   that, in coordination or through an agree-  
18   ment with a local law enforcement agency,  
19   offers a law enforcement training program;  
20   or

21           “(ii) a local law enforcement agency  
22   that offers a law enforcement training pro-  
23   gram.

24          “(B) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGEN-  
25   CY.—The term ‘local law enforcement agency’

1 means an agency of a State, unit of local government,  
2 or Indian Tribe that is authorized by  
3 law or by a government agency to engage in or  
4 supervise the prevention, detection, investiga-  
5 tion, or prosecution of any violation of criminal  
6 law.

7       “(2) GRANTS.—The Attorney General may use  
8 amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this  
9 section for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year  
10 2020) to make competitive grants to local law en-  
11 forcement agencies to be used for recruits to attend  
12 eligible entities if the recruits agree to serve in law  
13 enforcement agencies in their communities.

14       “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant  
15 under this subsection, each recruit described in  
16 paragraph (2) shall—

17           “(A) serve as a full-time law enforcement  
18 officer for a total of not fewer than 4 years dur-  
19 ing the 8-year period after the date on which  
20 the recruit completes a law enforcement train-  
21 ing program for which the recruit received ben-  
22 efits;

23           “(B) complete their service in a local law  
24 enforcement agency located within—

1               “(i) 5 miles of the residence of the re-  
2               ruit where the recruit has resided for not  
3               fewer than 5 years; or

4               “(ii) if the recruit resides in a county  
5               with less than 100,000 residents, within 20  
6               miles of the residence of the recruit where  
7               the recruit has resided for not fewer than  
8               5 years; and

9               “(C) submit evidence of employment of the  
10              recruit to the eligible agency in the form of a  
11              certification by the chief administrative officer  
12              of the local law enforcement agency where the  
13              recruit is employed.

14               **“(4) REPAYMENT.—**

15               **“(A) IN GENERAL.—**If a recruit does not  
16              complete the service described in paragraph (3),  
17              the recruit shall submit to the local law enforce-  
18              ment agency an amount equal to any benefits  
19              the recruit received under this subsection.

20               **“(B) REGULATIONS.—**The Attorney Gen-  
21              eral shall promulgate regulations that establish  
22              categories of extenuating circumstances under  
23              which a recruit may be excused from repayment  
24              under subparagraph (A).”.

1   **SECTION 1. STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.**

2       *Section 1701 of Omnibus Crime Control and Safe*

3   *Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended—*

4           *(1) by redesignating subsection (m) as subsection*  
5           *(n); and*

6           *(2) by inserting after subsection (l) the following:*

7       “**(m) COPS STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.—**

8           “(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—*In this subsection:*

9              “(A) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—*The term ‘eligible*  
10           *entity’ means—*

11              “(i) *an institution of higher education,*  
12           *as defined in section 101 of the Higher*  
13           *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001),*  
14           *that, in coordination or through an agree-*  
15           *ment with a local law enforcement agency,*  
16           *offers a law enforcement training program;*  
17           *or*

18              “(ii) *a local law enforcement agency*  
19           *that offers a law enforcement training pro-*  
20           *gram.*

21              “(B) **LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**—  
22           *The term ‘local law enforcement agency’ means*  
23           *an agency of a State, unit of local government,*  
24           *or Indian Tribe that is authorized by law or by*  
25           *a government agency to engage in or supervise*

1           *the prevention, detection, investigation, or pros-*  
2           *ecution of any violation of criminal law.*

3           “(2) *GRANTS.*—*The Attorney General may use*  
4           *amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this sec-*  
5           *tion for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year*  
6           *2020) to make competitive grants to local law enforce-*  
7           *ment agencies to be used for officers and recruits to*  
8           *attend law enforcement training programs at eligible*  
9           *entities if the officers and recruits agree to serve in*  
10          *law enforcement agencies in their communities.*

11          “(3) *ELIGIBILITY.*—*To be eligible for a grant*  
12          *under this subsection, each officer or recruit described*  
13          *in paragraph (2) shall—*

14           “(A) *serve as a full-time law enforcement of-*  
15           *ficer for a total of not fewer than 4 years during*  
16           *the 8-year period beginning on the date on which*  
17           *the officer or recruit completes a law enforcement*  
18           *training program for which the officer or recruit*  
19           *received benefits;*

20           “(B) *complete the service described in sub-*  
21           *paragraph (A) in a local law enforcement agency*  
22           *located within—*

23           “(i) *7 miles of the residence of the offi-*  
24           *cer or recruit where the officer or recruit*  
25           *has resided for not fewer than 5 years; or*

1                   “(ii) if the officer or recruit resides in  
2                   a county with fewer than 150,000 residents,  
3                   within 20 miles of the residence of the offi-  
4                   cer or recruit where the officer or recruit  
5                   has resided for not fewer than 5 years; and  
6                   “(C) submit to the eligible entity evidence of  
7                   employment of the officer or recruit in the form  
8                   of a certification by the chief administrative offi-  
9                   cer of the local law enforcement agency where the  
10                  officer or recruit is employed.

11                  “(4) REPAYMENT.—

12                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an officer or recruit  
13                  does not complete the service described in para-  
14                  graph (3), the officer or recruit shall submit to  
15                  the local law enforcement agency an amount  
16                  equal to any benefits the officer or recruit re-  
17                  ceived under this subsection.

18                  “(B) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General  
19                  shall promulgate regulations that establish cat-  
20                  egories of extenuating circumstances under which  
21                  an officer or recruit may be excused from repay-  
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